

From: Gordon Krum
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

Greetings,

As a programmer who specializes in educational projects I can tell you from personal experience that the way Microsoft conducts business has held back the usefulness of computers to education at all levels. Schools just can't cope with the additional expenses generated by Microsoft's attempts to own the world. The losers here are our kids and therefore our society. Allowing Microsoft to buy their way out by giving schools hardware and software will only increase the problem by further limiting competition. Instead, and at least, make them give the thing the value most COLD HARD CASH and let the schools decide how to spend it without restrictions of any kind.

Some excuse Microsoft by saying that they are just good technology manipulators.

So were the robber barons of almost a century ago. Through new technology they then and Microsoft now manipulated, circumvented, squashed and laid waste the honest well intentioned efforts of many people all in the name of filling their own wallets. If what the robber barons did was criminal then what Microsoft is doing is criminal.

Having lived and worked in the silicon valley I know that there are thousands of Gates want to be's. How this settlement goes down sends a message to the entire industry about what behaviors will or will not be tolerated.

Please make it a RESOUNDING message!

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